IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Steven M. Blumenau et al.
Serial No: 09/107,684.
Filed: June 30, 1998
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INITIALIZING LOGICAL
                OBJECTS IN A DATA STORAGE SYSTEM

Examiner: Encarnacion, Y.
Art Unit: 2185

Box CPA
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to further examination, and in response to the Final Office Action mailed October 25, 2000, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims

Please rewrite claims 1-6, 8-10, 12-17, 19, 20, and 22 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A storage system for use in a computer system including a host computer, the storage system comprising:

at least one storage device having a plurality of user-accessible storage locations;

a cache memory; and

a controller, coupled to the cache memory and the at least one storage device, that controls access to the at least one storage device from the host computer, the controller being capable of generating data that is independent of any data passed from the host computer to the storage system and writing the generated data to a first storage location of the plurality of storage locations on the at least one storage device in response to a communication from the host computer that does not include the generated data to be written to the first storage location.

2. (Twice Amended) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the first storage location includes a plurality of first storage locations on the at least one storage device, and wherein the